

Vacant Skies

The object of the Tasmanian UFO Investigation Centre is to investigate UFO reports and distribute the resulting information to fellow groups, members , and the media if neccessary.

This has not been an easy task since the end of last July(1977). The past nine months has seen the elusive UFO phenomena vacate the Tasmanian skies.

The Centre has had its share of publicity during the period. TV coverage and wide mention of our 1978 Annual Report. This exposure to the public has brought little more than a Flow of IFOs. The Centre is much better known now but the UFO figures are on a par with around 1972/73 when we were a little heard of organisation.

If the UFOs are not here at least they have appeared elsewhere. According to Victorian and NSW UFO Research there have been some events of high strangeness. Victoria has seen something of a flap in the Echuca area with a number of cases involving traces left on the ground. In NSW there has been something of an increase in sightings from Northern New South Wales.

"Close Encounters".

The next major event on the local scene seems to be not a UFO sighting but the film "Close Encounters of the Third Kind". Conflicting reports have reached the Centre about the film. Whatever controversy there is about the film it will achieve something no UFO group could, putting the UFO subject in front of the public. By the time our next Newsletter is printed we should have some idea of its effect, or lack of on the Tasmanian public.

SIGHTINGS.

Now down to the "nitty gritty" of what the UFO Centre is all about. Investigations are running much the same as last year but at the time of writing there has been a fall in UFO cases. Only 4 UFO reports to date compared with 14 in the same period in 1977. A few sightings from other years are also listed below.

DATE	TYPE	TIME	DURATION	WITNESSES	LOCATION
winter 1969	NL	about 9/10pm	4min	1	Fourteen Mile Road.
Truck driver driving south from Bronte to Tarraleah. Notices a light ahead and thinks at first it must be a car. However, eventually he sees it is a bright orange dome shaped object on the ground 400mts west of the road. It throws a bright glow all around. When the driver stops his truck the object slowly rises from the ground and recedes up into the sky. Witness then drove on and didn't look at the object again. Old case heard of in 1978.No follow up possible. Sighting Value O.E (see information sheet)					

DATE	TYPE	TIME	DURATION	WITNESSES	LOCATION
Jan 1977	CE 1	02.00	20mins	3	Buckland
Mother woken up by son, who, on arriving home had noticed a 1/2 mt sized light on the hillside 200mts from their farmhouse. Both watched the flashing red light for some time from the house. The light pulsed off and on every 2 seconds until it pulsed off and failed to come back on. The next morning they found out the eldest son had also seen the light. No traces were found although a tree stump freshly pushed over was in the area the light was in. On the spot investigation by the Cnetre in February 1978. Value 3.A.					

DATE	TYPE	TIME	DURATION	WITNESSES	LOCATION
late Jan 77	NL	evening	2min	1	Buckland
A second sighting on the same farm. This time a dozer driver was staying in a Kombi van on the farm. Firstly something rocked his van one evening, he says it was calm at the time. Soon after a roaring noise was heard, then the witness saw a white light to the north. It grew in size until a mile off then changed to orange in colour before going away to the south. A week later he was camping in the area with his son in law. Again the roaring noise was heard, it stopped suddenly and was replaced by two high pitched speeded up voices outside the tent. Quick footsteps were heard also. Nothing was visible next morning to explain the noises. Their radio also suffered from a lot of static interference. The witness says he has camped out in the bush many time. Sighting investigated January 1978. No check possible on aircrfat movements. The noises etc: may of course be coincidental. Value 1.B					

DATE	TYPE	TIME	DURATION	WITNESSES	LOCATION
18.7.77	CE 1	02.30	30mins	1	Buckland
Third sighting on the farm, this time by a third son out shooting in the early hours. The witness first noticed a semi circle of 6 or 8 lights at a 45deg angle in the sky. The lights were flashing a pink/red colour except for two steady lights positioned at the base of the semi circle. The lights wre at 200mts elevation and estimated to cover an area of 200mts. The witness walked beneath the lights and could see that the stars were blocked out by something inside the semi circle of lights. Each individual light looked to be 3 to 5mts wide. The witness then moved on but kept the lights under view as he re-commeneced his shooting. Eventually he moved off home and last saw the lights through the trees in their original position. Witness interviewed in February 1978. Sighting value 2.B					

Correspondence to TUFOIC, GPO Box 1310 N, HOBART ...7000.

SIGHTINGS Continued.

late Nov 1977 NL 02.30 15mins 1 Ulverstone
 Witness wakes up in early hours and goes onto front porch for some fresh air. Notices a large round sphere shaped object out over the sea to the north. It is white in colour with red, blue and green lights pulsating about the centre of the object. The lights seemed to be moving from left to right. The object soon shot off at terrific speed along the coast towards Devonport. Then it performed a series of erratic zig-zagging manouvers before disappearing northwards at great speed. Witness reported sighting to the Centre in April 78. Sighting value 1.B

31.1.78 CE 1 04.10 5mins 1 Pawleena
 Witness up early when notices a bright white light approaching from the south east. The light comes straight towards the house and grows in size/ Eventually it circles the paddock alongside the farmhouse. The UFO appears football in shape but when the 2 white lights in its centre are pointing at the witness it is hard to see anything. The UFO circles over the paddock twice only a few metres above the ground. It passes in front of a tall gum tree before gaining elevation and speed as it goes away over low hills to the north west. On the spot investigation a few days after the event. No air traffic, nothing seen from Hobart Airport. Sighting value 3.A

18.2.78 DD 10.15 5mins 2 Granton
 Two witnesses travelling in a car going north at Granton, then through Bridgewater. Passenger first to notice two spherical mettalic objects stationary in the northern sky. The two objects then start moving east. The witnesses are suprised when the objects just disappear in a clear sunlit sky. Then they soon reappear more disc shaped and brown in colour. The sighting becomes even more puzzling when the objects revert back to their original appearance. After moving apart and closing together again the object are last seen just after Bridgewater as they speed up and go away over hills to the north. Sighting details completed early April. No air traffic on flight path reported but there were light planes over Hobart area. It seems unlikely to be two planes so close together. The witnesses saw a light plane later and said it bore no resemblance to the objects. Sighting value 2.B

27.3.78 NL 20.02 7mins 8 Highcroft
 Seveh boys(aged 8 to 17) see 2 orange lights north of Highcroft. One of the parents also saw the lights briefly. The two star sized lights were side by side and moved in an up and down motion towards the east. They were at low angular elevation and at one point came together and emitted a red flash. Soon after they lost elevation and faded out. No airtraffic at the time. Details supplies in March. Sighting value 1.B

31.3.78 DD 06.00 30secs 1 Montrose
 The witness was heading home northward on the Brooker Highway. Being a part time pilot he was looking at the sky to the west for an indication of the weather. Then he saw there was a white light moving straight up from Tom Thumb(1100mt peak nth of Mt Wellington.) The light stopped 5degs above the hilltop and whilst this was happening the witness pulled up his car. A second smaller light then came up below the first, but only to half the elevation before it dropped back down. The first light(Venus sized) then also dropped straight back down behind the mountain. The witness waited but nothing else occurred. A press item brought no extra information. Sighting value 0.B

RENDEVOUS NEAR ALBURY ...Melbourne Herald ..8.4.78

Two young farmers watched two large bright silver objects hovering above a valley on their property 10 days ago during an eerie silence. Christopher and Geoffrey Kloppenborg were mustering sheep when they saw the objects. They said it was probably about a mile away when they saw the first object and the size of a small hayshed. It was very bright - a chrome or mercury colour and hovering in the sky above a tree lined hillside. Geoffrey told his brother Christopher to bring the binoculars. Christopher said he followed his brother to the top of the hill and could see the object casting a shadow on the tree lined hills. It appeared to have black shapes along its side. While Geoff went to get a camera a second stingray craft came over the hills and joined the first object. It swept in an arc and turned beside the bigger craft. Geoffrey saw the second craft as he returned. As he arrived back at the top of the rise the two UFOs moved off rapidly over bush country to the east. It was too late to use the camera.

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 Have you a list all the Tasmanian UFO sightings. Now available a complete list of all reports from 1948 through to Jan 1978. Up dates to be provided at future dates. You will be suprised at the length of the list, get a copy now. Send an envelope to take 4 foolscap pages, don't forget the postage, a 20c stamp.

TUFOIC's next members meeting will be on June 9th, 8pm at Scots Church rooms, rear of the church in Bathurst St...please treat this as your reminder notice.....

Any sightings or information contact the Secretary on 23 6009 or write to our Box no.